

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide—a tragedy that has left a dark stain on the collective conscience of the world.

Between 1915 and 1923, more than 1.5 million Armenians were marched to their deaths in the deserts of the Middle East, murdered in concentration camps, drowned at sea, and forced to endure unimaginable acts of brutality at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

The Armenian Genocide—along with the Holocaust is one of the most studied cases of genocide in history. Countless experts have documented the atrocities that occurred, compiling an overwhelming body of historical evidence on the Armenian Genocide.

However, successive U.S. administrations have refused to call the deliberate massacre of the Armenians by its rightful name, continuing only to refer to it as an annihilation, massacre, or murder.

It has been nearly a century since the Armenian Genocide began and each day that goes by without full acknowledgement by the United States prolongs the pain felt by the descendants of the victims, as well as the entire Armenian community.

For years, I have been urging both Democratic and Republican administrations to finally acknowledge the Armenian Genocide for what it was—genocide. I do so again today.

The United States has often led the international community in speaking out against violence and suffering wherever it occurs. But tragically, our Nation is on the wrong side of history when it comes to the Armenian Genocide. I hope that this year we right this terrible wrong once and for all.

It is time for the United States to join the list of countries from Argentina to France as well as 43 U.S. States that have unequivocally affirmed the Armenian Genocide.

Genocide is only possible when people avert their eyes. Any effort to deal with genocide—whether past, present or future—must begin with the truth.

So this April 24, as we pause to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide and to celebrate the many contributions Armenian Americans have made to our great nation, I hope that the United States will finally and firmly stand on the right side of history and call the tragedy of 1915–1923 by its rightful name.

TRIBUTE TO H. SAWIN MILLETT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on May 30, H. Sawin Millett will step down as commissioner of the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, one of many positions he has held during a remarkable career of more than 55 years of dedicated service at all levels of government. I rise today to join the people of Maine in thanking

him for his many contributions as he retires to his family, his farm, and his beloved hometown of Waterford, ME.

Sawin has served five Maine Governors—Republican, Democratic, and Independent—and in the cabinets of four. His energy, expertise, and commitment to responsible and accountable government have been applied to such diverse areas as education, finance, and mental health services.

Sawin served six terms in the Maine legislature and was lead House Republican on the Appropriations Committee during the last three. His institutional knowledge and keen understanding of the State budget process and fiscal operations has been invaluable to our State. Building on his early career as a teacher, coach, and principal, he was the first executive director of the Maine School Management Association and an assistant professor at the University of Southern Maine.

It is fitting that Sawin's life in public service began at the local level, serving as selectmen in the towns of Dixmont and Waterford, and as a town meeting moderator.

The appreciation of Sawin's service crosses party lines. When the announcement of his retirement was made, both sides of the aisle were united in praise for this generous mentor and effective leader who has always been devoted to the people of Maine.

I have had the privilege of knowing Sawin for many years. We served together in the cabinet of Gov. John McKernan, and I was fortunate to have him on my State staff during my first term in the Senate. I also have had the pleasure of knowing his wonderful wife Barbara, who has been a strong and loving partner for more than 57 years. On behalf of the people of Maine, I wish them health and happiness in the years to come.

LET FREEDOM RACE CELEBRATION

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise to thank the great people at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for their hard work in honoring our Nation's military and veterans' families. This Memorial Day Weekend, the 55th Let Freedom Race Celebration at CMS will bring together more than 100,000 military guests to celebrate our military heroes and honor their service. This Memorial Day tradition will, once again, showcase our military strength by demonstrating patriotic unity and pride for those who served in our Armed Forces to protect us.

Over the 55 years of the Memorial Day weekend celebration at Charlotte Motor Speedway, millions of race fans have joined together to celebrate America's military heroes and honor their service. Generations of men and women have worn their Nation's uniform with pride and put their lives on the line to protect and preserve our most precious commodity: freedom. Many of them paid the ultimate price

and should always be remembered for their sacrifice. I commend all those at Charlotte Motor Speedway, and the wider racing community, for their continuing support of our men and women in uniform.

Please join me in recognizing those at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for their efforts in promoting the Let Freedom Race Celebration each May.

COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Columbus State Community College in recognition of its 50th anniversary and the opportunities it has provided to students throughout Ohio. On September 30, 1963, Columbus State was founded in the basement of Central High School in Columbus, OH. Since its inception, Columbus State has grown tremendously by expanding its enrollment and academic offerings from an initial 67 students to more than 25,000 students. The diverse student body has come from more than 130 countries and all of Ohio's 88 counties.

The mission of Columbus State is "to educate and inspire, providing [its] students with the opportunity to achieve their goals." This mission is vital to the Columbus community. Throughout its 50 years, Columbus State has provided exemplary educational opportunities through more than 200-plus degree and certificate programs. It has awarded nearly 50,000 degrees and has a nearly \$1 billion annual impact on the local economy. The school also provides several transfer options and continuing education opportunities to students.

I have visited Columbus State and seen firsthand the excellent education and training it provides to students, including the resources available through the Center for Workforce Development. The center collaborates with companies in the Columbus region to address workforce needs through innovative approaches to education and customized training. It is helping to ensure that students are prepared with the skills they need for the jobs of the 21st century.

I am pleased to honor Columbus State Community College and congratulate everyone who was a part of making its first 50 years a success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO IVÓN PADILLA-RODRÍGUEZ

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ivón Padilla-Rodríguez, an honors program student at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Ms. Padilla-Rodríguez was selected for a prestigious 2014 Harry S. Truman Scholarship from among the Nation's most competitive applicants. The award is given annually for those of demonstrated leadership and public